

Alfredo Gonzalez

Texas State Veterans Home

The Alfredo Gonzalez Texas State Veterans Home sits on 12 acres in the heart of McAllen's medical district and is ideally suited to serve the region's more than 44,000 veterans. The land for the home was obtained through the City of McAllen and the Meyerhoff family.

The home is named in honor of U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez, who posthumously received the Medal of Honor on October 31, 1969, for his heroism, courage and dynamic leadership in Vietnam.

Texas State Veterans Homes can cost significantly less than private nursing care because the VA subsidizes a portion of a veteran's cost to live in the home. The McAllen home will have 160 beds, of which 60 will be certified for Alzheimer's care in a separate, secured wing. Residents will have access to 24-hour professional care, a comprehensive rehabilitation program, special diets, recreational activities, social services and a library. Community and veteran volunteers also play a role in supporting the home.

The members of the Texas Veterans Land Board who chose the McAllen site are: Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board and Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office; Col. Ladd Pattillo, USAR (Ret.); and Mr. Mike Ussery.

Patterson authored Senate Bill 1060, the legislation that established the Texas State Veterans Homes program while serving as a state senator in 1997.



Texas Veterans Land Board
Jerry Patterson, Chairman
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, Texas 78711-2873
1-800-252-VETS
www.texasveterans.com

Alfredo Gonzalez

TEXAS STATE VETERANS HOME



DEDICATION CEREMONY
TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD
JUNE 14, 2005 ♦ 10:00 A.M.



TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD
JERRY PATTERSON, CHAIRMAN

Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez

McAllen's Texas State Veterans Home is named in honor of U.S. Marine Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez, a Medal of Honor recipient killed in Vietnam.

Sgt. Gonzalez was born and raised in Edinburg, where he played for his high school football team and helped his mother by working in the fields during the summer. He enlisted in the Marine Corps, and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. After returning from Southeast Asia, Sgt. Gonzalez became a combat instructor for Marines deploying to Vietnam. After learning that some of his trainees were killed in Vietnam, he volunteered for another tour.

On Jan. 31, 1968, Sgt. Gonzalez was commanding Third Platoon, Company A, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division. His platoon was under fire near Hue City when a Marine was wounded and lay helpless in an exposed position. Sgt. Gonzalez dodged intense enemy fire to rescue the man and, despite being wounded in the process, carried his fellow Marine to safety. Returning to the fight, Sgt. Gonzalez found his company pinned down by fire from a fortified machine gun bunker. He attacked the bunker with hand grenades and destroyed it. On February 3, despite being seriously wounded again, Sgt. Gonzalez refused medical treatment and continued leading his men. The next day, his company was again pinned down, suffering heavy casualties. Sgt. Gonzalez knocked out a heavily fortified enemy position with antitank rockets and gave his life in the process. He was 21 years old.

On October 31, 1969, President Richard M. Nixon presented the Medal of Honor posthumously to Sgt. Gonzalez for his heroism, courage and dynamic leadership.

Special Thanks

Ms. Dolia Gonzalez
Mayor Leo Montalvo, City of McAllen
Roy Cantu, City of McAllen
Larry Pressler and the McAllen Parks and Recreation Department
The Meyerhoff Family
The Freddy Gonzalez Elementary Patriot Choir
The Corpus Christi Veterans Band
Senior Dimensions, Inc.
McAllen High School Jr. ROTC
Med-Care

Dedication Ceremony

PATRIOTIC PRELUDE: Corpus Christi Veterans Band

POSTING OF THE COLORS: McAllen High School Jr. ROTC

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Freddy Gonzalez Elementary Patriot Choir

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Francisco "Frank" Albiar
Quartermaster, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2369

PRAYER FOR THE TROOPS: Dr. Pat Johnson
Pastor, Valley Christian Church

WELCOME: The Honorable Leo Montalvo
Mayor of McAllen

OPENING REMARKS: The Honorable Jerry Patterson
*Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board &
Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Ms. Dolia Gonzalez

COMMENTS:

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
U.S. Congressman

The Honorable Veronica Gonzales
State Representative

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
U.S. Congressman

The Honorable Armando "Mando" Martinez
State Representative

The Honorable Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa
State Senator

The Honorable Aaron Peña
State Representative

The Honorable Eddie Lucio, Jr.
State Senator

Patsy Palmquist
*Former State Commander of the American
Legion and Former Member Texas Veterans
Commission*

The Honorable Ismael "Kino" Flores
State Representative

GOD BLESS AMERICA: Led by the Freddy Gonzalez Elementary Patriot Choir

RIBBON CUTTING: The Alfredo Gonzalez Texas State Veterans Home

RETIRING OF THE COLORS: McAllen High School Jr. ROTC

TOUR: The Alfredo Gonzalez Texas State Veterans Home
will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.